

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

**Kouchi Nagai et al.**

Serial No.: **09/815,282**

Filed: **March 23, 2001**

For: **SCANNING ELECTRON MICROSCOPE ....**



Confirmation Number: **4556**

Group Art Unit: **2881**

Examiner: **Paul Gurzo**

Attorney Docket: **010391**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT IN R.C.E.**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: **December 23, 2003**

Sir:

Please enter this Amendment before consideration on the merits with the RCE filed on even date herewith. This paper is in response to the Final Office Action mailed on September 23, 2003. No fee is due with this paper; however, any fees which may be needed to enter this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Claims 1, 12, and 23 are substantively amended, all similarly. The amendment is supported at page 16, lines 30-33.

Claim amendments start on page 2.

Remarks in response to the Office Action start on page 9.